

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 receiving entertainment programming input;
3 identifying multiple versions of an available entertainment program;
4 identifying, for each of the multiple versions, a set of descriptive information
5 regarding the respective version, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of
6 characteristics of the respective version;
7 identifying the differences in characteristics between the multiple versions; and
8 displaying the differences in characteristics between the multiple versions to a
9 user.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the differences comprises
2 displaying only the identified differences in characteristics.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the differences comprises
2 highlighting the identified differences in characteristics.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the characteristics comprise at least one of
2 a source identifier, a channel transport medium, channel audio support, program duration,
3 viewing format, pricing, enhanced programming availability, closed captioning
4 availability, color availability, language of subtitles in the version and language spoken in
5 the version.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

097793-030301
F03020"826260

receiving a selection from the user identifying one of the plurality of the multiple versions; and
displaying the multiple version corresponding to the user selection.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple versions are available using different channel transport media the method further comprising displaying an identification of the channel transport medium for each respective version.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the channel transport media include one or more of cable broadcast, satellite broadcast, radio frequency broadcast, telephone interface, computer network interface, CD-ROM, video disk, and video cassette.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying multiple versions comprises searching through data of an electronic programming guide.

9. A storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in:

receiving entertainment programming input;
identifying multiple versions of an available entertainment program;
identifying, for each of the multiple versions, a set of descriptive information regarding the respective version, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of characteristics of the respective version;
identifying the differences in characteristics between the multiple versions; and
displaying the differences in characteristics between the multiple versions to a user.

1 10. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions which
2 when executed by the processor, result in displaying the differences, further result in
3 displaying only the identified differences in characteristics.

1 11. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions which
2 when executed by the processor, result in displaying the differences, further result in
3 highlighting the identified differences in characteristics.

1 12. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the characteristics comprise at
2 least one of a source identifier, a channel transport medium, channel audio support,
3 program duration, viewing format, pricing, enhanced programming availability, closed
4 captioning availability, color availability, language of subtitles in the version and
5 language spoken in the version.

1 13. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions, when
2 executed by the processor, further result in receiving a selection from the user identifying
3 one of the multiple versions, and displaying the multiple version corresponding to the
4 user selection.

1 14. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the multiple versions are
2 available using different channel transport media and wherein the plurality of
3 instructions, when executed by the processor, further result in displaying an identification
4 of the channel transport medium for each respective version.

1 15. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the channel transport media
2 include one or more of cable broadcast, satellite broadcast, radio frequency broadcast,
3 telephone interface, computer network interface, CD-ROM, video disk, and video
4 cassette.

3 and wherein the device controller is further to display the multiple version corresponding
4 to the user selection.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the multiple versions are available
2 using different channel transport media and wherein the device controller is further to
3 display an identification of the channel transport medium for each respective version.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the channel transport media include
2 one or more of cable broadcast, satellite broadcast, radio frequency broadcast, telephone
3 interface, computer network interface, CD-ROM, video disk, and video cassette.

0977978-020904